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AMENDMENTS

CLAIM AMENDMENTS1 to 56. *(Cancelled)*

57. *(Previously presented)* A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a recombinant polynucleotide having at least one of the following properties:

a) it comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof; or

b) it hybridizes at 30°C in 6× SSC containing 50% formamide to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10;

wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from human cells in which TNF is expressed.

58. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.

59. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.

60. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a sequence selected from the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 or fragment thereof.

61. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having a sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

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62. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:1 or fragment thereof.
63. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:5 or fragment thereof.
64. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:6 or fragment thereof.
65. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:8 or fragment thereof.
66. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:9 or fragment thereof.
67. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the sequence of the longest open reading frame of SEQ. ID NO:10 or fragment thereof.
68. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:1.
69. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:5.
70. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:6.
71. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:8.

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72. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.
73. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide having the sequence of SEQ. ID NO:10.
74. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 57, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
75. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 60, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
76. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 61, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
77. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 65, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
78. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 66, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
79. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 71, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
80. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 72, wherein the protein is a metalloprotease.
81. *(New)* A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence that is also encoded in any one of SEQ. ID NOS: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

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82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.
83. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.
84. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from SEQ. ID NOs: 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.
85. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the protein facilitates reduction of inflammation when administered to a subject who has septic shock, arthritis, or multiple sclerosis.
86. (New) A method of producing a protein, comprising expressing in a cell a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence that is also encoded in SEQ. ID NO:9.
87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the protein causes increased release of a human TNF receptor from COS-1 cells transfected so as to express said receptor at an elevated level.
88. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the protein causes increased release of TNF receptor from Jurkat T cells.
89. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID NO:9.
90. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the protein facilitates a reduction in inflammation when administered to a subject who has septic shock, arthritis, or multiple sclerosis.